

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, March 25, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 25, 1839.

D'r Genl, As you may have some curiosity to see the Report of the Committee of Investigation, upon Defalcations etc. I herewith enclose you a copy. 1 I have just recd. it and have not had time to look into it; but as I shall be able to get another tomorrow I send you this.

1 House Reports , no. 313, 25 Cong., 3 sess. The report is also printed in full in Niles' Register , LVI. 87, 103, 119, 135, 151, 167, 182.

It is likely, in looking over this, you may be able to form an opinion as to how the immense amount, for which Swartwout is a defaulter, has gone. My own impression was that he had lost it gambling in the Stocks, but I am told, from an examination of the Brokers by the committee, that it would seem he was rather gainer in those transactions. What he done with money surpasses my comprehension. I believe I stated to you 0032 8 in a former letter, that Genl. Jno. T. Mason assured me that not more than fifty thousand dollars, if so much, of it went to Texas. Mason was his agent as regarded his investments in that country, and knows, I have no doubt, to a dollar the amount. Indeed he made out a list one day in my office, of the different sums sent to Texas, and the objects for which they were sent, and they fall some little short of fifty thousand dollars. It was supposed that he had made very large investments in Southern lands, and the Marshal of Mississippi, has levied on 800 sections in which it was said he had a large interest. In this too there seems

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to have been a mistake. The President of the Land company to whom the 800 sections belong, has written to the Solicitor of the Treasury and informed him that Col. Swartouts original Interest, in the lands of his company, was only $25,000, all of which he had disposed of before he left the U. States. The truth is no one here can tell any thing about the matter. I was talking yesterday with Mr. Gilpin upon the subject, whose business and duty it has been to investigate the affairs, and he says he is completely at fault.

With my kind regards to your family, and best wishes for yourself I am, dear Genl, very
Truly yours